

Message Text

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42

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-07

DODE-00 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-07 NIC-01 DRC-01 /073 W

----- 013887

R 231211Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9153

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

CINCPAC

USSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4154

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, LA, OCLR, CH

SUBJECT: OVERFLIGHTS OF CHINESE ROAD

1. PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO ME LAST WEEK OVER THE REMOVAL OF A RADIO BEACON IN XIENG LOM (PB 9273) PREVIOUSLY MAINTAINED BY AIR AMERICA WHICH HE SAID ASSURED SAFE NAVIGATION BETWEEN LUANG PRABANG AND BAN HOUET SAI.

2. IN THE COURSE OF MY TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THIS MORNING, I DEMONSTRATED THAT THE RANGE OF THE BEACONS AT LUANG PRABANG AND BAN HOUET SAI WAS SUCH THAT AERIAL NAVIGATION BETWEEN THESE TWO TOWNS SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEM. I SAID I RECOGNIZED THAT THE SHUT DOWN OF THE XIENG LOM BEACON INCREASED THE RISK THAT A LAO AIRCRAFT MIGHT OVERFLY THE CHINESE ROAD. I SUGGESTED THAT SOUVANNA SPEAK TO THE CHINESE AND INFORM THEM THAT THE AMERICAN BEACON HAD BEEN REMOVED AND THAT THEY NOT SHOOT AT ANY AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT BLUNDER INTO THIS AIRSPACE.

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3. SOUVANNA SAID THAT THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT IDEA AND THAT HE WOULD CALL IN THE CHINESAOCHARGE.

4. I HOPE THE WORD GETS DOWN TO THE TROOPS. WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
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